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FINANCE BOARD CENTRAL FIGURE IN FIRE PROBE

Council Refers to Money Committee Mayor's Application for Funds to Investigate Suspected Misconduct.

Having played his ace in the fire department probe, Mayor Boatright turned a watchful eye on the finance committee of the city council. The mayor's communication disclosing suspicious of graft in connection with the fire department and asking for an appropriation of \$500 with which to carry through an investigation was referred by council to the committee after the communication was read last night.

As already told, the mayor's disclosures included photographic reproductions of letters alleged to have been sent by Julius Pears, incident of the Fire Department Supply company of Denver to Councilman S. E. Coen when the latter was chairman of the fire committee. The letters referred to questioned dealings. The mayor's communication and the text of the alleged letters are appended in full.

Ready to Probe.

The mayor said today that it would be appropriate if he could get the money necessary for it he would push through a thorough investigation. It is said that the executive's first move would be to break in the Burns detective agency and turn it loose to follow the cues wherever they led.

Mr. Boatright intimated that he had other means in hand for the investigation beside the alleged letters.

Coen Is Reticent.

Councilman Coen said last night after council meeting that there was "nothing to it" but had no other statement to make. He is said to be on the point of leaving for California with his family for a visit to his wife's relatives, but it is said the trip was planned some time ago and it would be unfair to hint that Mr. Coen was withdrawing under fire. It is said that his wife's parents will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary this month and the trip was planned long before there was any hint of the disclosures made by the mayor.

In a statement given out in connection with the Coen matter Mayor Boatright raised the veil of mystery surrounding Coen's sudden resignation as chairman and member of the fire committee last summer. At the time no explanation of his act was made or subsequently until the mayor's statement. The mayor said he forced the resignation when the Pears letters came into his possession.

One of the letters is dated May 16, 1914, and the other April 7, 1915.

Mayor's Statement.

in his statement regarding the de-

partment disclosures Mayor Boatright said:

"The Pears letters came into my possession during last July. I removed Alderman Coen as chairman of the fire committee and as a member of the committee.

I withheld this information, believing that the ends of justice would better serve by so doing, hoping that by pursuing the investigation that other evidence could be uncovered.

Suspicion of irregularities in the department gradually grew on me until the feeling became more than a suspicion and I was convinced in my mind that something was wrong in the purchase of the equipments and supplies for the fire department and in the management of the department as a fire fighting force. My observations forced me to this conclusion.

When I entered office I knew Alderman Coen had been chairman of the fire committee for some time. He and chief Klein seemed to be working together agreeably and I felt that the best interests of the public would be served by continuing him as chairman of the committee and for that reason I reappointed him.

As to Personal Feeling.

It has been charged that in my actions as mayor, relating to the fire department, I have been prompted by personal feelings and political motives.

If in the presence of the dead body of little Owen Dorris, who met an untimely death at the hands of the fire motor truck driven by a man who to begin with was incompetent and who under oath admitted that he had been drinking on the day of the accident and in the presence of the grieving family, I showed some feeling of indignation at the deplorable occurrences that could be termed personal feeling, then it can be said that I displayed personal feeling. Otherwise we cannot.

If a sincere effort to correct the conditions that made the death of little Owen Dorris possible can be presumed only by political motives, then and in that event only could my efforts toward the organization and rehabilitation of the fire department be termed political. Never during my whole life have matters of personal feeling or of a political nature entered less into my actions than they have entered in all my efforts to improve the fire department. I have acted sincerely and solely in the interests of the public welfare in every act and every step that I have taken.

The mayor's statement follows:

"To the council: For the information of the council I beg to advise that I have uncovered prima facie evidence of irregularities in the fire department, that I have pursued the investigation as best I could thus far but further pursuit and investigation thereof will require some funds, and I therefore respectfully request that the council appropriate the sum of (\$500.00) five hundred dollars for the purpose of defraying the expense of further investigation by the mayor's office of graft in the city fire department and the appropriation to be disbursed upon the order of the mayor."

"The council will bear in mind that offenses of this kind and nature are always conceived and executed in secrecy and the gathering of evidence bearing thereon is a very difficult undertaking. Generally the source from which evidence can be secured is from the principals themselves through their careless conversation and un-

guarded action or remarks, as letters from one principal or confederate to another, disagreement over the division of the spoils, and boldness on the part of principals due to long continued escape or belief of immunity from discovery. I mention these matters so that the council will more clearly see the difficulties confronting the investigation.

The antagonism of the majority of the council to efforts of mine as mayor to improve the administration of the city affairs in its several departments, particularly the fire department, forces me to conclude that the council will not favorably consider this request unless I submit some of the evidence that I have uncovered showing prima facie evidence of graft. I therefore submit two letters, photographic copies of which are attached hereto, and herewith set forth in words and figures as follows:

Following is the text of the alleged photographs of the letters:

Denver, Colo., May 16th, 1914.
Mr. S. E. Coen,
City Council,
Albuquerque, New Mex.

Complying with your request we have quoted Chief Klein on the fire apparatus required as follows:

Automatic whistle blower and valve.....\$445.00
Non-int. E. M. re-enter oak...280.00
50 signal wheels.....125.00

577.00

On this order we will allow you \$50.00 and send you the \$600.00 due you heretofore or \$150.00 in all, as soon as the apparatus is delivered.

Hoping that you will see your way clear to place this order with us as soon as possible, we enable us to square up with you as we are.

Yours very truly,

P. S.—The wire will be in your city again the latter part of next week and would be pleased to see you then.

Denver, Colo., Apr. 7th, 1915.

Mr. S. E. Coen,
23 W. Hazeldine St.,
Albuquerque, N. M.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of 28th ult., and wish to advise you that I have been confined to my home with a seriously injured foot since last December and am at this time expecting to have an operation performed within the next ten days.

Owing to the fact that this injury has caused me considerable loss in business in addition to the doctor bills and the hospital bills when the operation is made, I am unable to comply with your request, but you can rest assured that the first money earned will be yours.

Hoping this will explain matters and that you will feel a little more lenient on your part will greatly assist me. I am.

Yours very truly,

JULIUS PEARS.

The statement continues:

"Large amounts of money have been expended by the city for the fire engines, chief's car, hose and other equipment through the fire committee. Alderman Coen, chairman, approximating in amount twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00). This does not include the fire department pay roll."

Respectfully submitted,

D. H. BOATRIGHT, Mayor."

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This is the most complete line of Embroidery Packages on the market.

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A March Morning; Arroyo de las Manzanas; Midsummer; Santa Fe; A Mexican Home; Adobes; Golden Gate Woods; October Afternoon; Hillside Avenue; Santa Fe; The Golden Pool; September; Santa Fe; Rio de Santa Fe; Bend; the River; Corner; Santa Fe; Cottonwoods; Summer; Grey Day; Santa Fe; Old Santa Fe Trail; The Old Portal; The Stepping Stones; over old Santa Fe; Late Afternoon; Santa Fe; Autumn Days; Taos Pueblo; Penasco

Feed bagged, weak, run down; Headache; Stomach "off". A good remedy is Burdock Blood Bitters. Ask your druggist. Price \$1.00.

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Works and Office—Albuquerque N. M.

TO MAKE PAYING OUT CITY CASH A LITTLE HARDER

Council Will Take Up Ordinance Requiring Signature of Finance Chairman Before Warrants Are Drawn.

As an aftermath of the payment of December salaries to the members of the fire department without the signature of the chairman of the finance committee council at its next meeting will take up an ordinance forbidding the mayor and city clerk to sign warrants without the finance chairman's signature.

With the artist here is his daughter, Miss Sarah Parsons.

The following is a list of the pictures on display Golden Days; Taos Hill; Landscapes; Santa Cruz River; A New Mexico Symphony; The Golden Screen; Chili; The Black Mesa; Sunlight and Shadow; October; Santa Fe; Calle de Vargas; Santa Fe;

Chief Burtt's report for December. It was promptly shelved on motion by Alderman Gransfeld.

"Why?" asked Mr. Hammond.

"Because there is no fire chief," dryly replied Mr. Gransfeld.

Mr. Hammond voted a lonesome nay on the motion to table.

INTERESTING ART EXHIBIT IS MADE AT COUNTRY CLUB

The first art exhibit made here for many months, and one of the most interesting ever held here, now is in progress at the Country Club, where some thirty canvases of Sheldon Parsons, the Santa Fe artist who has been visiting this city for several days, are hung. Many have availed

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